

Herald's 'Letter to Santa' Contest Opening Today

Four Prizes
Valued at
\$60 Offered

A "Letter to Santa" letter writing contest sponsored by the HERALD opens in the newspaper's circulation area today.

A total of \$60 in merchandise certificates will be given to the top letter writers in four classes of competition.

Fifteen-dollar merchandise orders good at any downtown Torrance store will go to the girl in the fourth grade or under submitting the best letter, the boy in the fourth grade or under with the best letter, and to the girl and boy in the fifth to eighth grades inclusive sending in the best letters.

Letters should be addressed to Santa Claus and sent to him at the Torrance HERALD, 1619 Gramercy Ave., Torrance. Older children who would prefer, may send their letters to the HERALD's Christmas Editor.

Dec. 15 Deadline

All letters must be in the HERALD office by 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 15.

The letters to Santa need not be elaborate, and should not be very long—just put down what you want most for Christmas and why you would like to have it.

The merchandise orders will be issued by the HERALD at the conclusion of the contest and will be redeemable by the winners in any downtown Torrance store.

Best to Be Printed

An impartial panel of judges will go over each letter and select the best to be included in final judging for prizes.

Representative letters will be printed in the HERALD each week as space permits.

That's all there is to it... so start writing those letters today.

Dec. 15th will be here before you know it—and Santa has to have a little preparation.

CHAMBER GIVEN FOUR-STEP PLAN FOR DOWNTOWN PARKING PROBLEM

The Only Paper Blanketing All Sections of Torrance plus Lomita, Harbor City and Adjacent City and County Areas

Torrance Herald

THURSDAY
and
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Two Seriously Hurt in Crash

Three men were hurt, two seriously, in a collision Tuesday at 238th St. and Walnut Ave., according to Torrance police.

Taken to Harbor General Hospital with head injuries, cuts and bruises were Manuel Figueroa, 20, of 1344 W. 251st St., Harbor City, and T. J. Gadberry, 34, of 2332 W. 248th St., Lomita.

Investigators said that Figueroa was pitched to the pavement from his coupe and that Gadberry was in his station wagon when it flipped onto its left side on the front lawn of a house at 1824 W. 238th St.

A passenger in the station wagon, James Simmons, 34, of 24630 Eshelman Ave., Lomita, was treated by a private physician for minor wounds, according to officers.

Figueroa's wife, Rose, 19, was working at a nearby flower nursery when she heard the sound of the crash. She rushed to the scene to comfort her husband, who had just left her at work.

On the recommendation of Police Chief W. H. Haslam, the Council Tuesday night ordered stop signs installed on 238th St. at Walnut Ave.,

scene of the accident. Signs also were ordered on 238th St. at Western Ave.

TWO ROLLING HILLS GATES PUSHED DOWN

Somebody doesn't like the gates at the entrances to Rolling Hills, that area's Community Assn. told sheriff's deputies Monday.

Gates at two of the entrances to the exclusive section were battered down, officials reported. Down were the wooden crossbars at the two entrances—Crest Rd. and Palos Verdes Dr. E. and at Crenshaw and Crest Rd.

Car Radio Stolen

A radio valued at \$30 was stolen from his car while it was parked in front of his house, Edgar Jones, of 17111 Prairie Ave. told police Tuesday.



WOMEN ENTERTAIN BOSSES . . . Pictured, left to right, when members of the National Business and Professional Women of Torrance entertained their bosses Monday evening, are Mrs. Robert Lewellen, chairman for the dinner event; Supervisor Burton W. Chace; Mrs. Sanford A. Whiting, president of the group, and Assemblyman Vincent Thomas.

John S. Tolson, Pioneer Resident Here, Dies at 90

John Städlar Tolson, 90, father of former Mayor William H. Tolson and one of the city's oldest residents, died Monday at Harbor General Hospital.

A resident of Torrance for the past 43 years, Mr. Tolson was cited in 1940 as the city's senior motorist,

and for his record of never being involved in an accident. He got his first operator's license in the early years of the century, and his only ticket was for failure to renew the license in 1916.

He came to Torrance in 1913, where he operated a transfer and trucking business for several years. In 1932, he was employed by the city street department. Born in Arkansas, he lived in Texas before coming here. He lived at 1626 Date Ave.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. tomorrow in Stone and Myers Chapel, with the Rev. C. M. Northrup of the First Baptist Church officiating. Burial will be in Roosevelt Cemetery.

He is survived by four sons, William H. and Claude E. Tolson, Torrance; Curtis Tolson, Sun Valley, and H. M. Tolson, Gardena; 11 grandchildren, and 18 great-grandchildren.

Mother, Son, AND the Doctor Are Doing Fine

Most new fathers pass out the cigars and proudly say mother and son are doing fine.

In the case of former city attorney James M. Hall, however, he's reporting that mother, son, and doctor are doing o.k.

Hall's wife, Chris, gave birth Monday evening to a 7½-pound son, whom they have named Joseph Charles. Dr. John Beeman, who supervised the affair at Torrance Memorial Hospital, complained of illness during the evening, and shortly after Joseph's birth, was operated on for appendicitis.

Like Hall says, mother, son, and doctor are doing fine.

The Halls live at 624 Calle Miramar. Dr. Beeman at 1518 El Prado.

Business Women Honor Bosses at Dinner Meeting

"Since 1912 Los Angeles County has recognized the equality of women in staffing its various departments," Chairman Burton Chace of the Board of Supervisors told a dinner meeting of the National Business and Professional Women of Torrance, Monday.

Chairman Chace, who also represents the Fourth supervisorial district which includes the Torrance area, was the featured speaker of the gala event. Present were members of the active group with their "bosses" as honored guests, Torrance city officials, and Assemblyman Vincent Thomas.

The club members used the occasion, also, as a recognition of the 35th anniversary of the City of Torrance. Merit awards were presented to Mr. Chace, City Manager George W. Stevens and Chief of Police Willard Haslam by Mrs. Robert Lewellen, chairman of the event.

Mrs. Sanford A. Whiting, president of the group, introduced various committee chairmen who have contributed to one of the most active years in the history of the local group.

Burglar Runs After Waking Visiting Pair

A bold burglar who narrowly escaped capture by one of his victims of a motel theft was being sought by police here today.

Detectives said the thief stole into a unit of the Driftwood Motel at 3960 W. Pacific Coast Hwy., where the occupants, Mr. and Mrs. E. K. Bobo of Los Angeles, were slumbering Monday.

Bobo awakened to see the intruder going through the pockets of his trousers near the bed. Bobo grabbed for the man, but the burglar dropped the man's wallet and fled out the door.

He escaped with Mrs. Bobo's wallet containing \$125. The billfold, minus the cash, was found near the motel on Tuesday.

Dorsey Tells Parking Needs

A four-step plan to alleviate parking problems in the downtown Torrance shopping district was outlined for those attending the Chamber of Commerce breakfast meeting Tuesday morning by Ralph T. Dorsey, internationally recognized traffic authority who has been retained by the city to study the problem.

Speaking to the more than 60 Chamber members and city officials at the meeting, Dorsey recommended that the city take these steps:

1. Demolish the city hall on Cravens Ave. and convert the area into a parking lot.

2. Acquire the Post Ave. property (old Mayfair Creamery property) and combine it with the Bank of America lot for parking.

3. Move to acquire the property outlined in the Parking Assessment District plan.

4. Increase parking meters on downtown streets to about 600, and hike the rates on about half of them to 5 cents for each 30 minutes.

Need 2000 Spaces

Torrance will eventually need about 2000 spaces to compete with developing shopping centers in the immediate area, he said. This means that deck parking will be needed in the future to accommodate that many autos on the space available in the downtown area.

The city hall property downtown is too valuable as a parking lot to be used for any other purpose, he said. That site, along with the property previously occupied by the old fire station and jail, would make an ideal lot for attendant parking and a future deck parking site, he said.

The Post Ave. property would also provide 114 off-street parking sites immediately if combined with the Bank of America lot, and would make a good location for another deck parking structure, he reported.

Threats Cited

"The threat here now is one which involves cities all over the nation," Dorsey told the Chamber breakfast crowd. "It is the threat of decentralization. The present threat to Torrance's downtown shopping district is the shopping center now being constructed at 174th and Hawthorne Ave.," he explained.

He pointed out that the downtown merchants were going to have to compete with the center which has provided 5000 free parking spaces for its customers.

The value of providing parking was pointed out by Dorsey when he said that an average annual value of a parking space is about \$8000. He said Sears, Roebuck & Co. figures each parking space it provides for customers is worth \$10,000 a year.

Council Hears Plan

In the downtown Torrance area, as in most suburban shopping districts, 300 to 400 feet is about the limit a lady will walk to do her shopping, he said. He cited the figure to point out that the parking would have to be provided in the immediate downtown area.

City Manager George Stevens later told the City Council that negotiations were continuing on acquisition of the Post Ave. property and that he hoped to have a recommendation for the Council on Dec. 4, their next meeting date.

The Council also authorized the accepting of bids on the old city hall property in an effort to determine the money which the city might be able to obtain from a sale of the buildings. Bids will be due sometime next month.

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Chamber Voting For Four New Board Members

Final balloting for four new directors for the Torrance Chamber of Commerce will begin this week, President John A. Ebbinghouse announced at the monthly breakfast Tuesday.

Eight members have been nominated for the posts through balloting on the entire membership, he said.

Those nominated for the four posts include Jack Dabbs, manager of M & M Enterprises; Paul Diamond, Gay Shop; Fred W. Mill, National Supply Co.; George M. Naylor, Torrance Hardware; J. H. Paget, J. J. Newbery Co.; R. S. Pyle, Pacific Telephone Co.; A. E. Thompson, General Petroleum Corp., and William Zappas, Torrance Press.

Ten directors whose terms on the board have not expired include Atty. Donald Armstrong; Henry W. Creeger, American-Standard; Gerald M. Eastham, M.D.; John Ebbinghouse, American Rock Wool; Paul Loranger, Paul's Chevrolet; Arthur Osega, California Bank; Darwin Parrish, Parrish Stationers; Dean L. Sears, Bank of America; Orville R. Trueblood, McMahon's Furniture Store, and King Williams, Torrance HERALD.

Ballots to elect four board members from the eight nominated are being mailed this week, Ebbinghouse reported. The 15th member of the board is appointed by the balance of the board.

HORSLEY ENTERS NOT GUILTY PLEA

A "not guilty" plea was entered by Fred Elijah Horsley, 35-year-old aircraft worker accused of murdering his wife on Oct. 16, Wednesday in Superior Court, before Judge Clement D. Nye.

Trial was set on Jan. 8, 1957, in Department 40, Superior Court. He is charged with beating his wife, Maudie Lee Horsley, 34, to death in their home at 3221 W. 190th St.

Mousy Fellow Blamed in Fire In Garage Here

A mousy little character is believed to have been the firebug who caused a fire in a garage at 21729 Palos Verdes Blvd. Tuesday evening, but he paid for his crime, firemen reported.

Torrance firemen were called out to quell the flames in Kenneth Serogins' garage, which was full of furniture and other household effects in temporary storage. The furniture was badly damaged, although the building did not suffer as much.

After the flames had been doused, firemen found the body of the culprit, just uttering his last earthly sound. Although he made no dying confession, several charred match sticks were found around his body, and the fire apparently started in that area. Bits of burned excelsior also surrounded the body.

From the circumstantial evidence, firemen surmised that the excelsior and match sticks were part of a nest being made by the mousy little character—a mouse.



THANKSGIVING, 1956 . . . Celebrating Thanksgiving for the 96th time this year is Mrs. Sadie Yoder, (center) who flew out from Wooster, O., to eat turkey with her son and his family. Shown are Nellie Hartzler, her daughter; Mrs. Roy Yoder; Mrs. Sadie Yoder; Roy Yoder, her son; and Dick Yoder, her grandson. Thanksgivings really haven't changed much over the years, she reported. (Herald Photo)

Thanksgiving Hasn't Changed Much, Visitor, 96, Declares

Thanksgiving is about the same today as it was 90 years ago.

That was the observation of Mrs. Sarah Yoder, a spry little old lady who made the first plane ride of her 96 years to spend Thanksgiving here with her son, Roy Yoder, 3729 W. 181st St.

Aside from the fact that housewives today have many modern gadgets to fix dinner, Mrs. Yoder doesn't notice much difference in Thanksgiving now, as compared with those in her girlhood. Then, as now, it was the occasion for large family gatherings and a big dinner topped off with pumpkin pie.

At Chickeen the only difference, she said, was that her family used to

have roast chicken instead of turkey.

On her first airplane trip coming here, Mrs. Yoder said she was amazed at the smoothness of the ride and at the speed with which the plane arrived here from her home in Wooster, Ohio.

This is her fourth trip to California since she became 80, and her last trip, at 85, she made by herself.

Likes Travel She loves to travel and while here, often accompanies her son on his rounds as a salesman to various parts of Los Angeles and as far south as Newport Beach.

Aside from colds, Mrs. Yoder cannot recall being seriously ill and said she has never had a headache.

Her daughter, Mrs. Nellie Hartzler, who accompanied her from Wooster, declared, "The rest of us have a good many colds during the winter, but Mother never seems to catch them."

Keeps Busy

Mrs. Yoder still keeps busy, piecing quilts and listening to and watching radio and TV.

Born in 1860 in Lancaster, Pa., she can recall hearing of Lincoln's death in 1865 when a neighbor came over to tell them about the event. Her family moved to Tennessee in 1870 and she lived there until 30 years ago. She now makes her home with her daughter.

Mrs. Yoder has three children, nine grandchildren, and 12 great grandchildren.